

Good morning. I would like to thank this sub-committee's members and staff for holding such an important hearing on the lax behavior and misuse of science by ATSDR/CDC leadership and staff. My name is Jeffery Camplin, and I am president of Camplin Environmental Services, Inc., a safety and environmental consulting firm based in Rosemont, Illinois. My chosen research specialty is asbestos. I have been a volunteer for the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society since 2003, investigating why ATSDR purposefully downplays the chronic asbestos exposures of millions of Illinois citizens each year.

My story begins in 1993 when I brought my wife and three children (2-3 years old) to Illinois Beach State Park, located on the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline north of Chicago. After building sand castles and burying each other in the sand I heard my wife exclaim, "Look in the car, it's full of sand. It's in the kids' hair, in their ears, and in their shoes... it's everywhere." Sand eventually ended up in our laundry room as well. Little did I know at the time that my wife along with millions of other families should have been saying, "Look at the asbestos contamination from the beaches. It's in our car, it's on our kids, and it's in our home."

I have been working for the last six years with Mr. Paul Kakuris, President of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society. Our research indicates that ATSDR has violated its mission to serve the public by purposefully not using valid science, by not taking responsive public health actions, and by providing untrustworthy health information. Specifically:

- ATSDR has become a complacent agency, choosing to produce outdated, inferior work products when they know that more valid science exists.
- When ATSDR's ethics and competence are challenged, a great wall of arrogance and denials appears from their leadership to strenuously fend off requests for accountability.
- ATSDR also takes advantage of the public's gullibility to trust in an Agency that is ethically bankrupt.

The egotistical leadership and complacent culture of this once great agency needs a total overhaul. However, that is not enough: **We are here today to demand accountability for the harm caused to public health by the inexcusable and deliberate behavior of ATSDR staff in downplaying elevated levels of toxic microscopic asbestos along the entire Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline.**

Evidence demonstrates the USEPA and the State of Illinois, along with ATSDR, bungled the cleanup of an asbestos Superfund site at the south end of Illinois Beach State Park, allowing trillions of asbestos fibers to be released from an unfiltered pipe into Lake Michigan to this very day. Their incompetency also allowed large areas of asbestos-contaminated lake sediments to be dredged and dumped on and off shore at heavily visited public beaches. Federal agencies and the State of Illinois then generated rigged data to conclude the massive asbestos contamination they created was not hazardous to the millions of citizens who frequent these areas. Illinois is well known for nurturing a culture of public officials with less than honest and ethical behavior. Illinois officials seized upon the opportunity presented by the complacent culture at ATSDR to protect their unethically symbiotic agendas. They obtained "rubber stamped" approval of their intentionally flawed federal and state reports.

In order to conceal the unethical behavior of their staff, ATSDR will tell you that "the science is still developing" while they knowingly continue to use severely flawed and outdated asbestos risk assessment methods. What they don't tell you is that current science completely discredits

and invalidates ALL of their past asbestos human health evaluations in Illinois and at hundreds of others sites throughout the nation. Yet, ATSDR stubbornly refuses to acknowledge this fact. Examples of other indiscretions by ATSDR include:

1. ATSDR generated beach asbestos exposure results in 2006 that the USEPA identified as potentially harmful to human health. ATSDR dismissed the criticism by the USEPA along with our ethics violation charges and published the report stating the beaches were safe anyway.
2. In over a decade of testing, ATSDR has never performed or reviewed any air sampling data that was obtained during the hot, dry, dusty months of June through Mid-August. They intentionally test outside the beach season when the beaches are damp and cooler.
3. ATSDR found no elevated risk to human health from the rare but virulent asbestos fiber called tremolite found on Chicago's Oak Street beach. Tremolite asbestos-contamination has already devastated the town of Libby, Montana with one of the highest mesothelioma cancer rates in the nation.

The fraudulent findings of ATSDR created a welcome permission slip for the continued dredging of toxic asbestos contaminated sand in Illinois. Spreading the contaminated dredge material on the shoreline increases the risk of mesothelioma cancer rates in Lake and Cook counties along Lake Michigan that are already elevated when compared to the national average. How high must the body count get before ATSDR admits there is a problem?

In 2004, then Illinois State Senator Barrack Obama best summed up our feelings when asked by a reporter about the asbestos contamination along the Illinois shoreline: Our current President said at the time, "*We can't have our kids swimming in areas that might be contaminated with asbestos.*" He then stated they should consider shutting down the asbestos-contaminated shoreline.

Precautionary protections are necessary to address this continuing public health disaster and egregious violation of the public trust from getting any worse.

- The first urgent step is for ATSDR to acknowledge that their past studies are flawed.
- Next, limit the public's exposure to the asbestos-laden shoreline beaches until scientifically valid exposure assessments can be completed in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner.
- The final step is to hold all parties liable for their actions. ATSDR officials (Mark Johnson, Jim Durant, John Wheeler, and Howard Frumkin), along with State of Illinois and USEPA officials must be held accountable for their egregious and potentially criminal behavior that has resulted in millions of innocent families being unwittingly exposed to deadly amphibole asbestos fibers.

On behalf of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society and the citizens of Illinois, I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I will now address any questions you may have.